

Restoration of the Burnt Island Light Station

Before and After



Front view of the keeper's dwelling in 1998 before restoration.



Restoration work to the keeper's dwelling included: new cedar roof, brick chimneys, porch railing and skirt, windows and doors, and huge pressure treated deck removed.



The Burnt Island Light Station buildings in 1998 just after the property was transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard to the Maine Department of Marine Resources. The last lighthouse keeper left the station in 1988 when the lighthouse became automated.

Below, the buildings as they appeared in 2003 after the restoration work had been completed. The cedar roof, brick chimneys, and exterior paint is now identical to its appearance in 1950.



The Kitchen - Before and After



The interior of the keeper's dwelling was modernized several times over the years. In 1984, the remodeling included new windows, inexpensive oak kitchen cabinets, wall paneling, Caribbean wallpaper, and linoleum flooring.



In 2003, the interior restoration was completed with new "old" windows, bead-board kitchen cabinets, a rebuilt pantry, Douglas fir floors, a Queen Atlantic cook stove, and period furnishings. This kitchen is now identical to how it appeared in 1950.

The Kitchen - Before and After



The electric range has been removed along with the oak cabinets and stainless steel sink. A restored Queen Atlantic cook stove, pictured to the right, is now the focal point of the kitchen.



A set of historic B&W photos, taken inside the dwelling in August 1951, were found in Coast Guard records. These pictures allowed for the accurate restoration and decoration of the house. Many of the original furnishings were donated back to Burnt Island by the children of Keeper Muise.



The bead-board cabinets, splash board, and crown molding were rebuilt to specification from a 1950 drawing. The enamel sink receives water from a hand-pump, and the electrified Aladdin lamps are the only source of light.

The Dining Room - Before and After

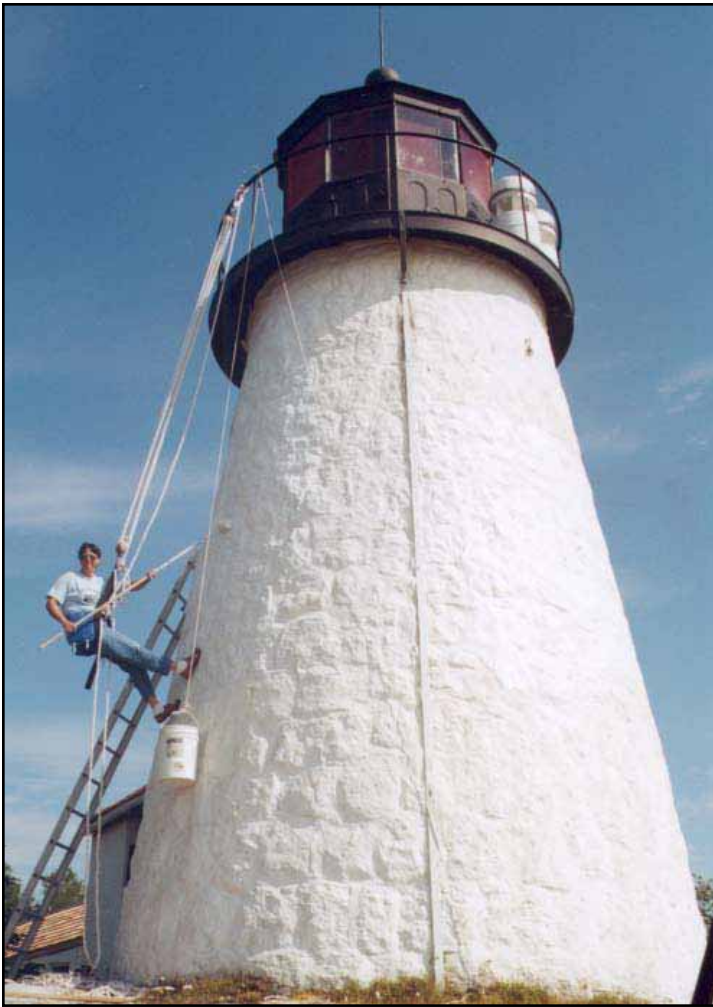


The old dining room had a linoleum tile floor and a suspended tile ceiling. The brick fireplace and chimney were in poor condition having been built in 1903.

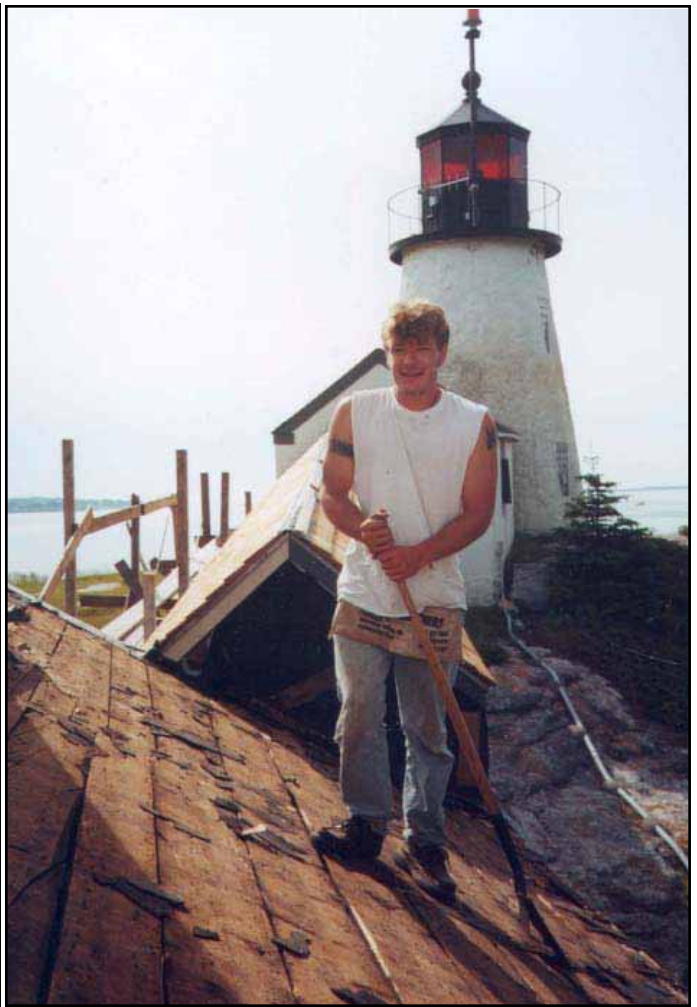


The chimney and fireplace were totally rebuilt and the mantel was stripped and repainted. New maple floors and ceiling were installed and the walls replastered before being painted. All electrical fixtures were removed and electrified Aladdin lamps were positioned on shelves in every room.

The Restoration in Progress



Education Director Elaine Jones paints the lighthouse from a boatswain's chair.



The old asphalt roof is removed from all the buildings before a cedar one is installed.



Kirk McCullough, a former keeper's son, volunteers his services to restore his first home.

The Restoration in Progress



The raised flower beds constructed by the Master Gardeners serve as natural barriers.



An Americorps volunteer removes the old suspended ceiling in the dining room.



Stephen McCullough volunteered hundreds of hours, during weekends and vacations, to help restore his childhood home.